

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1-6 are amended. No new matter is entered.

Corrected drawings are entered herewith. FIGS. 1 and 4 are amended herein to correct typographical errors in numbering. With respect to the objection of FIG. 8, item 803 is discussed in paragraphs 75-77 of the application as filed. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification are entered herein. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In the office action mailed December 13, 2007, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 as being indefinite. In view of the amendments to claims 1-6, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 rejection of claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable by McNally (6,549,932). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNally. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

McNally describes a process for discovery in a distributed computing environment, in which discovery agents are used to identify endpoint machines for task deployment. (McNally, Abstract). Discovery agents are described in McNally as being “a small piece of code that is customized or tailored as a function of the particular task to be later deployed” and “tasked to locate and identify suitable target(s) for the deployment.” (McNally, col. 3, lines 24-33). Such discovery agents are well known in the art for network discovery purposes. Indeed, discovery agents and the problems associated with using discovery agents for network discovery are discussed in the background of the present application, see, e.g., Application, page 2, paragraphs 7-8.

Conventional network discovery was performed using discovery agents, which would send requests to IP addresses on a network and await a response. If the discovery agent did not receive a response, it would often repeat the request. Often discovery agents would repeat requests using various protocols. Each of these steps could be time consuming, particularly when repeated in a large multi-component networked system.

Embodiments of the present invention improve upon conventional network discovery methods that used discovery agents, e.g., as described in the background section of the present application, by using worker threads which, among other things, operate in parallel thereby sharing time that is otherwise wasted waiting for responses. (Application, ¶31). Worker threads can be designed to be identical and interchangeable and “programmed to perform identical functions in response to the request for information,” as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action points to discovery agents in the McNally reference as being analogous to the worker threads of the present invention. This is incorrect. Indeed, this distinction is one of the many advantages provided by the present invention, namely using worker threads for network discovery purposes.

Another distinction of the present invention over McNally is that the worker threads are “programmed to perform identical functions in response to the request for information.” (See, e.g., claim 1.) The Office Action points to McNally col. 2, lines 40-42 and col. 6, lines 49-57 as discussing this element. A careful read of these sections does not reflect this concept. Instead, these sections of McNally merely discuss that discovery agents are centrally available to locate machines on a network for task deployment. There is no discussion in McNally of any worker thread that is programmed to perform any function, much less an identical function, in response to a request for information.

As mentioned previously, one of the advantages of the present invention is being able to provide concurrent and identical functionality by a plurality of worker threads. Such functionality had not been previously provided in conventional systems using discovery agents.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2-3 include elements in common with claim 1 and are also allowable for the same reasons discussed with respect to claim 1. Thus, claims 2-3 are also allowable over the cited reference.

One of the elements of claim 4 recites: “receiving based on the device architecture indicated in the response, one or more scripts that request additional information about the device, wherein the scripts are customizable and executed outside the program.” This feature of the present invention is advantageous over conventional discovery systems because it allows a discovery operation to build upon certain information received from a discovered device and receive a script relevant to the received information, which can, for example, be executed, and cause a further request for additional information to be sent to the active device.

The office action points to McNally, col. 6, lines 32-46, 64-67 and col. 10, lines 6-29 and 35-39 as discussing this element of claim 4. These sections of McNally, however, discuss tailoring certain discovery operations, e.g., to identify devices to perform a specific task, or to seek devices that have a certain configuration which may be useful in performing a task. These sections of McNally do not discuss, however, as specifically recited in claim 4, receiving *based* on the device architecture indicated in the response, one or more scripts that request additional information about the device, wherein the scripts are customizable and executed outside the program. The invention recited in claim 4 is different than tailoring a discovery operation as described in McNally. Claim 4 specifically requires that a script is received *based* on the device

architecture indicated in the response. McNally only describes customizing a discovery operation for task deployment.

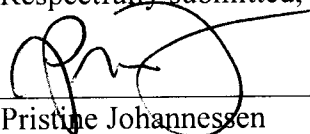
For at least these reasons, claim 4 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 5-6 include elements in common with claim 4 and are also allowable for the same reasons discussed with respect to claim 4.

For at least the reasons discussed herein, claims 1-6 are allowable over the reference. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees due in this response to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Dated: April 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pristine', is written over a horizontal line.

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